

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 152

Commemorating Mystic Seaport: the Museum of America and the Sea in
recognition of its 75th year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating Mystic Seaport: the Museum of America
and the Sea in recognition of its 75th year.

Whereas Mystic Seaport: the Museum of America and the
Sea was founded as the Maritime Historical Association
on December 29, 1929, to preserve, protect, and honor
the legacy of America's great maritime tradition and cul-
ture;

Whereas Mystic Seaport has grown into the largest, most di-
verse maritime museum, and the fourth largest history
museum, in the Nation;

Whereas the mission of Mystic Seaport is to create a greater
awareness and deeper appreciation of America's relation-
ship to the sea and the impact of that relationship upon
us as individuals and as a Nation;

Whereas the collections of Mystic Seaport include four National Historic Landmark vessels including the CHARLES W. MORGAN, the last wooden whaling ship in the world; the LA DUNTON, one of the few remaining fishing schooners of its era; the SABINO, the last coal-fired, steam ship still in operation; and the EMMA C. BERRY, an 1866 wooden fishing vessel;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also maintains the largest collection of watercraft in the nation with more than 500 vessels representing sail, oar, paddle and engine-powered boats spanning 2 centuries of history;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also features the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard as a live working facility that showcases and interprets the art of shipbuilding and restoration, including the restoration of its iconic National Historic Landmark vessels;

Whereas the Mystic Seaport put the Preservation Shipyard to its highest and best use in replicating the schooner AMISTAD in full public view, demonstrating its claim that Mystic Seaport is the only museum in the world that can build a large wooden vessel from the keel up and launch it as part of a comprehensive museum experience;

Whereas the Collections Research Center of Mystic Seaport houses 75,000 maritime artifacts, more than one million photographs, and 1.5 million feet of film, and is a dynamic national maritime research facility;

Whereas the G.W. Blunt White Library is one of the largest and most thoroughly catalogued and accessible collections of marine and maritime research material in the world;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also features a representative 19th-century New England coastal village featuring skilled

tradesmen and live interpretation to engage, educate, and entertain its visitors;

Whereas Mystic Seaport maintains educational and outreach programs for all levels including accredited graduate and undergraduate programs through the Munson Institute and Williams-Mystic, the cooperative Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport;

Whereas Mystic Seaport continues to attract more than 300,000 visitors each year and millions of other individuals through its interactive internet web site, demonstrating its role as a vital cultural and educational center;

Whereas more than 1,500 volunteers each year assist 300 professional and support staff in preserving and interpreting the collections of the Mystic Seaport and in delivering its unique programs; and

Whereas Mystic Seaport has recently completed a comprehensive self-study and a strategic program and master plan, and has recommitted itself to its mission with an effort to strengthen its endowment and make its programs more cohesive and compelling: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) commemorates Mystic Seaport: the Museum
4 of America and the Sea in recognition of its 75th
5 year and commends the staff, volunteers, and trust-
6 ees of the Museum and encourages them in their ef-
7 forts to create greater awareness of America's rela-
8 tionship to the sea and the profound impact of mari-

1 time transportation and commerce upon our Na-
2 tion's economic growth;

3 (2) supports Mystic Seaport's presentation of
4 our Nation's Merchant Mariners and shipbuilders
5 whose efforts promoted the expansion of maritime
6 transportation and commerce;

7 (3) asks all Americans to join in celebrating
8 this milestone for Mystic Seaport and its mission of
9 preserving and interpreting the legacy of American
10 maritime transportation and tradition; and

11 (4) encourages Mystic Seaport in its efforts to
12 secure the future of its collections and programs and
13 supports its efforts to make those programs even
14 more compelling and engaging.

○